

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China/Hong Kong/Macao

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT Travel Conditions between Shanghai and Hong Kong

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. In order to leave Shanghai, a traveler must apply to the Public Security office for papers, stating his destination, date of journey and of return, and the reason for travel. Friends of officials usually obtain some assistance in procuring their papers, although they are questioned closely as to connections of the traveler with any undesirable elements. An elderly person can be cleared in about a week, but young men between 18 and 25 are not issued travel documents unless they are war veterans. Large numbers of Chinese travel between Shanghai and Hong Kong weekly.
2. Trains from North Station, Shanghai, to Shenchuan, on the Hong Kong border, have three classes of accommodation. First class, fare JYP 320,000, has compartments, and sheets and cheap cotton blankets are furnished; second class, fare JYP 270,000, has double deck bunks with straw mats spread on the wooden platforms; and third class, fare JYP 160,000, has wooden benches and no sleeping arrangements. The trip requires three and a half days and usually ends at Canton, where the passengers await a train for Shenchuan.
3. From Canton to Shenchuan normally takes six hours if there are no guerrilla attacks. Guerrilla bands are active in the area and frequently remove trucks in order to stop trains and rob the passengers of gold and jewelry. Some of the guerrillas, in fact, appear to be rather bandits than anti-Communist irregulars.
4. The smuggling of gold and of persons into Hong Kong is not difficult and often is managed through collusion with Hong Kong customs personnel. The favorite places for hiding the gold is in the coiffeur or in a shoe heel for women, in fruits and vegetables, for men. Chinese customs employees arrange to bring people across the border illegally at a cost of HK \$35. Customs agents in Shenchuan meet the travelers and guide them across the border by land into Kowloon over a route about ten miles long. Payment is collected in advance.
5. With the installation of a high barbed wire fence on the border and the stationing of British officials there, however, the smuggling of persons into Hong Kong by this route has been stopped. Instead, a Chinese citizen boards a river boat from Canton to Macao and works his way in from there.

CLASSIFICATION

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This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

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